

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are requested. Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-23 remain in this application. Claims 1, 11 and 22 have been amended and new claims 25-30 have been added without adding new matter. Claims 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 16 and 24 have been canceled. No additional claims fees are required.

Disclosure Objections

The disclosure is objected to because of missing serial number and filing date in paragraphs 1 and 30 of the specification. Paragraphs 1 and 30 of the specification have been amended to include the serial number and the filing date.

Informal Drawings

Replacement drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to this office action. Accordingly, seven (7) sheets of replacement drawings are submitted herewith.

Claim Objections

Claims 5-7, 10, 14-16, 19-20 and 24 are objected by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5, 14 and 24 have been canceled and the limitations of claims 5, 14 and 24 have been included in the amended independent claims 1, 11 and 22 respectively. Furthermore, claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 have also been canceled.

Since independent claims 1, 11 and 24 have been amended to be placed in condition for allowance, the objection of dependent claims 10, 19-20 is deemed obviated and are also in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 8, 11-13, 17 and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Covell et al. (U.S. Patent 7,003,134, referred to as “Covell” herein).

As stated above, independent claims 1, 11 and 22 have been amended to add the limitations of the objected to claims 5, 14 and 24 respectively, which have been canceled. Thus, this rejection of claims 1, 11 and 22 and the claims depending therefrom is deemed obviated and claims 1-4, 8, 11-13, 17 and 22-23 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. The Examiner has rejected claims 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Covell in view of Berkin et al. (U.S. Patent 4,823,394, referred to as “Berkin” herein).

Since, the independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the prior art, as discussed above, Applicants submit that the dependent claims 9 and 18 are also patentable for at

least the same reasons as those presented in claims 1 and 11. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 9 and 18.

B. The Examiner has rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Covell in view of Parker et al. (U.S. Patent 6,674,894 referred to as "Parker" herein).

Since, the independent claim 11 is patentable over the prior art, as discussed above, Applicants submit that the dependent claim 21 is also patentable for at least the same reasons as those presented in claim 11. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 21.

New Claims:

New claims 25 and 26 depend upon independent claim 22 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as advanced allowability of claim 22. Additionally, new claims 27 and 28 include limitations of combination of claims 1, 6 and 7 (6 and 7 are canceled) and thus, claims 27 and 28 are also considered allowable. Furthermore, new claims 29 and 30 include limitations of combination of claims 1, 15 and 16 (15 and 16 are canceled) and thus, claims 29 and 30 are also considered allowable.

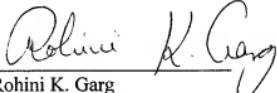
CONCLUSION

Wherefore, Applicant believes that all outstanding grounds raised by the Examiner have been addressed and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

No fee is required with this amendment, however, if any fee is deemed necessary for this Amendment to be entered and considered by the Examiner, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. **501358**.

Applicants' undersigned agent may be reached at the telephone number provided below. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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